

REMARKS

The independent claims have been amended to recite: "said seal being unsecured to said outer peripheral surface of said stem, and with said male component being movable within said receptacle member, with said stem moving relative to said seal as said male component moves relative to said receptacle member." The claims, as amended, define around the Mangas, et al. patent. In Mangas, et al., a seal is secured to both the male and female components. The seal is an accordion-type seal, and would not meet the newly claimed limitations.

With regard to the rejection of the claims under 35 USC § 103, these claims are allowable for the same reason as set forth above with regard to the independent claims. The secondary reference does not address the deficiencies of the primary reference as mentioned above.

Further, revised drawings are being submitted. Essentially, numeral 100 has been deleted in Figure 3 as instructed by the examiner. Approval of the drawings is requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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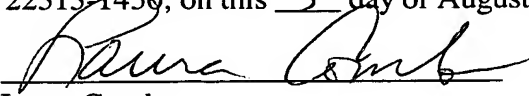
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CERTIFICATE OF MAIL

I hereby certify that the enclosed Response is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 3 day of August, 2005



Laura Combs